8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including copredators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. Around 31111 sq.km. of critical/core tiger habitat identified in 17 States.

10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Death of tigers in Zoological Parks

2221. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether some tigers were found killed or dead in other Zoological parks of the country during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and causes of their death;

(c) the other wildlife animals facing extinction; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent extinction of tigers and other species from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In different Zoological Parks of the country, a total of 16 Royal Bengal Tigers have died from 01.04.2007 to 13.03.2008. The details along with cause of their death are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) There are no such reports of wild animals facing extinction.

(d) The steps taken by Government to prevent extinction of tigers and other species in the country are as follows:

(i) National Parks and Sanctuaries have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife and their habitat.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals, including Tiger, Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino, Wild Buffalo, Tibetan Antelope, Marine turtles, Corals, etc., against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.

(iv) Financial and Technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.*, 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wild animals;

(v) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

(vi) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(vii) The State Government have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

(viii) A multidisciplinary Tiger Conservation Aurhority has been constituted with effect from 04-09-2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

(ix) The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

Statement

Details of Death of Tigers in the recognized zoos as received from 01/04/2007-31/03/2008

Sl.No.	Name of the Zoological Park	Reasons for death	Bengal Tiger	Bengal Tiger (White)	Grand Total
1.	NEHRU ZOOLOGICAL PARK, HYDERABAD (ANDHRA PRADESH)	Senility		1	1
2.	SRI VENKATESWARA ZOOLOGICAL PARK, TIRUPATI (ANDHRA PRADESH)	Pyelonephritis	1		1
3.	BIOLOGICAL PARK, ITANAGAR (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)	Old age	1		1
4.	MINI ZOO, PIPLI (HARYANA)	Acute respiratory failure	1		1
5.	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU BIOLOGICAL PARK, BOKARO (JHARKHAND)	Fibrosis of liver Nervous disorders	1		1
6.	DR. K. SHIVARAM KARANTH PILILKULA BIOLOGICAL PARK, MANGALORE (KARNATAKA)	Kidney infection	1		1
7.	TIGER & LION SAFARI, THYYAREKOPPA, SHIMOGA (KARNATAKA)	Respiratory distress	1		1
8.	VAN VIHAR NATIONAL PARK, BHOPAL (MADHYA PRADESH)	Severe gastritis and Old age	3		3
9.	RAJIV GANDHI ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTRE, PUNE (MAHARASHTRA)	P.M. Awaited	1		1
10.	SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK, BORIVALI, MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA)	Toxemic condition and shock	1		1
11.	MAHENDRA CHAUDHURY ZOOLOGICAL PARK, CHHATBIR (PUNJAB)	Acute cardiac failure Renal failure	2		2
12.	KANPUR ZOOLOGICAL PARK, KANPUR (UTTAR PRADESH)	Congestive heart failure	1		1
	GRAND TOTAL:		15	1	16